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Copy " of 12

2 May 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Project Director

SUBJECT : Transfer of Project AQUATONE to USAF

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1. A chance remark of [redacted] yesterday morning regarding the possibility of transferring Project AQUATONE to the Air Force some "13 to 14 months hence" served as a reminder to me of our discussion about 10 days ago regarding the achievement of an internal Agency position on this delicate matter - by 15 May 1956.

2. You will recall that this early decision is occasioned by the immediate need for framing a Congressional budget estimate for FY 58. You indicated that you did not wish to cover this matter until you had given some additional thought to the entire question of the conduct of overflight activities, as reflected in your staff paper to Mr. Dulles of 11 November 1955.

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3. Again, the advent of the month of May reminded me that your scheduled trip [redacted] comes off in something like two weeks. As busy as you are, I suspect that you will wish to assign some priority to your consideration of this matter of the transfer of the Project prior to your departure [redacted]. I need not tell you again of the far-reaching implications that any abrupt transfer, at almost any date in the near future, would have - not only upon this Project - but upon those divisions within the Agency who have contributed personnel to our effort.

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JAMES A. CUMMINGS, JR.
Director of Administration
PCS/DCI

JAC:msh

Orig - addressee

2 - D/Proj Dir

3 - D/Ops

4 - D/Mat

5 - D/Admin

6 - Contracting Officer

7 - Pers

8 - SO

9 - Comm

10 - Fin

11 - chrono

12 - reading

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